



State of Connecticut
Latino and Puerto Rican
Affairs Commission

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Carlos E. Candal, Esq.

Hon. Migdalia Castro

Roberto C. Fernandez

Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon

Enrique Marciano, Sr.

Lourdes E. Montalvo

Ed Rodríguez

Norma Rodríguez-Reyes

Maritza Tirú

Danny Torres

Acting Executive Director

Werner Oyanadel

Special Projects Director/

Grants Writer

Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández

Senior Legislative Secretary

Clarisa Cardone

MINUTES

LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting

September 19, 2012

Waterbury City Hall

5:40 p.m.

Commissioners Present:	Carlos E. Candal, Esq., Yolanda Castillo, Richard A. Cruz, Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Dr. Sonia B. Mañjon, Lourdes E. Montalvo, Norma Rodríguez Reyes and Danny Torres
Commissioners Absent:	Ramón L. Arroyo, Honorable Migdalia Castro, Roberto C. Fernandez, Enrique Marciano, Sr., Ed Rodríguez and Dr. Eugene Salorio
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

Tape 1 A

Chairman Díaz, Esq. called the meeting to order and asked Yolanda Castillo to do roll call. Quorum was not established.

CHAIRPERSON'S/ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Díaz, Esq. thanked Mayor Neil H. O'Leary and his staff for allowing LPRAC to hold its monthly commission meeting at the Waterbury City Hall. He then announced the following:

1. At the request of the Office of Legislative Management (OLM), our budget request for the next biennium was submitted and we are asking for a permanent executive director;
2. It is highly recommended that the Results Based Accountability (RBA) Ad Hoc Committee focus on conducting at least two more "Turn the Curve" trainings by December either on housing or teen pregnancy issues;
3. We are currently working in collaboration with Center for Latino Progress and the U.S. Attorney's Office on a Civil Rights Summit scheduled for Oct. 10, 2012 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm in hearing 2C of the LOB.
4. The LPRAC Executive Board will be writing to all our legislative leaders to urge them to appoint Latino leaders to LPRAC. We currently have 14 out of 21 set forth in state statute.

Mr. Oyanadel thanked Chairman Díaz, Esq. for hosting LPRAC's commission meeting in Waterbury, CT. He spoke on the following items:

1. The Priorities & Legislation Committee has a report in the blue packets needed to vote. It is a research of Potential Economic & Public Safety Benefits of Issuing Driver's Licenses to all immigrants in CT preliminary findings; and
2. He continues attending the CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project as a result of the passage of Public Act 12-74 and is particularly interested in the Data, Methodology and Analysis Working Sub-Group which is currently reviewing a preliminary listing of traffic stop data to be collected and benchmarking methods to be used in CT next year;
3. The commission agreed to postpone the First Annual Golf Tournament to 2013. A committee needs to be activated for this.

Motion made to approve the Chairperson's/Executive Director's report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

Discussion:

Mr. Oyanadel also mentioned that we need to probably hire an economist and it will probably cost \$2,000. He also said that Commissioner Candal, Esq. said that we want to bring the report to the Legislature.

Commissioners Torres and Rodríguez-Reyes came in. Quorum is established.

Motion approved as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

6 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Marciano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

Public Participation:

Motion made to suspend the meeting for public participation by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes.

Motion approved as follows:

7 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Dr. Mañjon, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres
6 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

Chairman Díaz, Esq. announced the following guests:

1. Mr. Felix Rodríguez of the Waterbury Board of Education who is running for State Representative;
2. Mr. Neil H. O'Leary, Mayor of Waterbury thanked LPRAC for having its commission meeting in Waterbury. He said that they are working on how to attract and retain minority contractors, including Latinos, African Americans, Women, etc. They are preparing for elections in November and it is a very challenging time for them. He then thanked Mr. Gerry Reyes, Jr., his assistant who is doing a great job and they empower him to get things done. Their big thing was diversify the government – there was not 1. They've placed minority people in high level places. They are having a great Hispanic Heritage month. They'll be glad to have LPRAC participate. Another item is to challenge our parents to get involved with their children's education.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that being a lifetime resident from Waterbury that Mayor O'Leary is the first mayor to open up to the Latino commission. He then thanked him for having LPRAC come to Waterbury City Hall.

Commissioner Montalvo said that she hears people saying "my mayor" and then thanked him.

Mr. Oyanadel thanked Mayor O'Leary for working with the community. LPRAC is working on getting apprenticeship programs for barbers and would like to work with him.

Mayor O'Leary announced that he makes himself available to talk about disparity.

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes said that she comes from the City of New Haven and that former Chief of Police and Mayor, Biagio DiLieto and we have a mayor now, Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. and one of the things that helps him out is to have a Mayor's Night Out – Mayor's Night In. He opens up to the residents to come in and talk to him personally and he goes with the Department Heads too. He goes to the different neighborhoods once a month and gets to know the people and they get to know him.

Mayor O'Leary thanked her for her tips, he knows both of them.

Commissioner Castillo thanked Mayor O'Leary for taking up initiative to have parents work on their education.

Mayor O'Leary thanked LPRAC once again and is looking forward to working with us.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that the Legislative Session is coming up and we will earmark funds for Latinos. He also mentioned that the commissioner for the set-aside business is Commissioner Ed Rodríguez.

3. Mr. James Monroe thanked LPRAC for finally coming to Waterbury and that they'd like to see LPRAC more often. He is running for President of the NAACP. They have a school named after an African American. There's another school being built and he wants to have it named after a Latino.
4. Mr. Rafael Herrera thanked everyone for being there; he's well involved in the community. The neighborhood is 40% Hispanics. They built a community center in 2006 and since 2007: they ran after school programs with 40% being Hispanic and the rest African Americans. In the morning is a seniors program and in the evening it's an after school program. There are high amounts of drop-outs from the High Schools. He asked what the Commission could do. There are lots of cities with this problem.

Dr. Mañjon responded that our commission has taken on education as a priority. Our state is the richest but we have the largest education gap. We cannot look at the parents on this as there are problems with the system. Last week, Mr. Oyanadel and she met with Senator Williams and spoke on three items. 1) Income (events and communities); 2) ELL and 3) Racism.

Mr. Oyanadel said that years ago, we had a person talk about this, his name is Mr. Felipe Reinoso.

Mr. Rafael Herrera said that they help them with homework, they continue going to school, and have a different attitude and their parents tell us. You should find out why the child is suspended from school. Also, many kids have medications and parents just put it in their backpacks and they don't take it.

Commissioner Cruz said that you cannot give medications to teachers.

Commissioner Torres replied that you can give them to the nurses.

Commissioner Dr. Mañjon left at 6:55 p.m.

5. Mr. Geraldo Reyes, Jr., Assistant to the Mayor spoke next. He knows everyone in all the community and his vision is to have a Latino Mayor. He feels that it is very good to have Mr. Felix Rodríguez as State Rep. There should be more Hispanics in these positions.
6. Mr. Dennis Cuevas – Head of Department of Water Pollution Control (the only Latino in the City who is a Department Head). He encourages LPRAC to continue working on Education Reform. Someone just came from Puerto Rico with Barber's License but here, he's missing the license from here. It's hard to take a test after many years. Maybe there's a way to help them with their licenses. He thanked LPRAC for coming to Waterbury.

Tape 1 B

Chairman Díaz, Esq. said that his mom graduated as an R.N. in Puerto Rico but now she can't pass the test. It's an issue we'd like to do something about.

Motion made to close Public Participation by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes, Chair for this Committee reported that they had a new LPRAC Newsletter just done and the next one will be done sometime in November 2012. If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, please let them know. Commissioner Ramón L. Arroyo is presented on newsletter as we based it on seniority. They should do both languages, and will try to get funds for this. She wants to brand LPRAC. Then she reminded everyone about the Talent Bank. You can go into our website and fill out the application. She then announced that on Friday, September 28, 2012 LPRAC will have its Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the LOB Atrium unveiling the new José Ferrer stamp, and also that on October 10, 2012 there will be the Latino Civil Rights Conference cosponsored by LPRAC at the LOB, Room 2C from 1 to 6 p.m. She thanked Mr. Oyanadel, Mrs. Goicoechea Hernández and Mrs. Cardone for all of their hard work.

A gentleman suggested that the Newsletters be distributed to all City Halls.

Mr. Oyanadel said that we are looking for several ways to distribute it. He then announced that the new website is being launched in a couple of days and we're looking into mailing to 5,000 people and/or emailing.

Motion made to approve the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee report by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Candal, Esq. Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Candal, Esq., Chair for this Committee spoke about the report in reference to the Potential Economic & Public Safety Benefits of Issuing Driver's Licenses to all immigrants in CT preliminary findings. This is for all state residents to get driver's licenses. He would like approval of this finding and also to make a motion allowing them to obtain \$2,000 for additional research.

Motion made to approve \$2,000 for economist to provide substantial analysis by Commissioner Candal, Esq. and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.

Discussion:

Commissioner Montalvo said difference is because of the Gold Star license.

Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

Motion made to approve the Priorities & Legislation Committee report by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo. Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this Committee spoke on the following:

1. Discussions were made for the 16th annual Scholarship Awards. Staff was asked to check out additional locations in the Greater Hartford area. We will report in the October meeting;
2. Golf Tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2013 with a rain date of Monday, June 17, 2013;
3. Housing RBA will be held as its own stand-alone meeting rather than becoming a part of the Civil Rights Conference scheduled for October 10, 2012 at the LOB;
4. Hispanic Heritage Celebration is scheduled for next Friday, September 28, 2012 at the LOB Atrium from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Val Ramos Flamenco Ensemble will be performing along with the Flamenco Dancer. Alissa Belcourt-Romero of Verizon Wireless will be present to help unveil the new stamp together with Commissioner Castillo in his absence.

Motion made to approve the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Castillo, and seconded by Commissioner Candal, Esq.

Discussion:

Commissioner Cruz spoke about LPRAC's first annual golf tournament being postponed until summer of 2013.

Mr. Oyanadel announced that we need a lot of help to get funds for golf tournament.

Chairman Díaz, Esq. suggested that a letter should be written to Apple. We already signed the contract for the tournament. Once we vote on it, he's 100% on it.

Commissioner Torres replied that he agrees, we voted on this. Hopefully they can get more commissioners to help.

Commissioner Cruz We should give it our effort on this. Last year, they said they got letter too late. Let's give it a shot. If it doesn't work out, we have to go at it a different way.

Commissioner Candal, Esq. mentioned that he called Comcast and they don't go for golf tournaments, yet others thought of the kids.

Motion approved as follows:

5 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

1 Abstention: Commissioner Montalvo

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Montalvo spoke on the following:

1. National Hispanic Heritage Organization (NHHO) holding along with the Coalition of Latin American Consuls in New York (CLACNY) holding the first presentation of consulate services in New Haven, CT on Saturday, September 29 at the John S. Martinez Public School;
2. She reported that the flyers had talked about becoming a Miss Dominican Republic of CT 2012, for information call (860) 719-4478.

Motion made to suspend the meeting by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioners Candal, Esq. and Montalvo. Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

Mr. David Cueto announced that he is here to organize the Dominicans in CT. It's already done in Boston, MA. He wants to have the First Dominican parade in Hartford. He also spoke of the Waterbury On Wheels Awareness & Celebration which will be held downtown on the Waterbury Green on Sunday, September 23, 2012 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Motion made to return to meeting by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Torres. Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañjon, Marcano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the minutes of June 20, 2012 by Commissioner Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Candal, Esq.

Discussion:

Commissioner Montalvo requested a change on page 1; #2 should state that she received a letter from Attorney Hector Ventura Reyes.

Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañón, Marciano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

Motion made to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. by Commissioner Cruz and seconded by Commissioner Candal, Esq.

Motion approved as follows:

6 Yeas: Commissioners Candal, Esq., Castillo, Cruz, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

7 Absent: Commissioners Arroyo, Castro, Fernandez, Dr. Mañón, Marciano, Sr., Rodríguez and Dr. Salorio

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc